

TRIBUTE TO LAKELAND
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lakeland Elementary School in Norwalk, CA. Lakeland has been selected for the 1996 Program of Excellence Award by the California Council for the Social Studies. Only one school or district is selected each year throughout California to receive this prestigious award.

With the leadership and support of principal Tom Noesen, the creative and imaginative staff at Lakeland have used social studies as the core of an exciting resource-based instructional program, which has attracted the attention of an increasing number of educators. Lakeland School has also developed a remarkable relationship with its students, families, and with its primarily minority community. The staff at Lakeland Elementary are to be commended for achieving such positive educational results and for boosting its role within the community.

In this era of dwindling resources and support for public education, it is encouraging to see enthusiastic and caring teachers that are committed to providing our children the high quality education to which they are entitled. Lakeland School is a prime example of a team effort. Because of the cooperation that exists on the part of the administration to the students, Lakeland School has proved itself to be a pioneer in the effort to prepare our young people for success in the challenging world of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride and appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the positive contribution that Lakeland School is making toward the future of America.

TRIBUTE TO WEST SUBURBAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1996
AWARDS HONOREES

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding individuals and three organizations in my district who were recently honored for public service and volunteerism by the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce (WSCC).

Mr. Lawrence Kinports of LaGrange, IL, was named as the WSCC's Citizen of the Year. Mr. Kinports, a retired business executive and current LaGrange trustee, is renowned in the community for his volunteer work. He serves as an active member of the boards of numerous organizations, including the Southwest Suburban Center of Aging and the Community Extension Project, which serves the youth of his community. In addition, Mr. Kinports has been previously recognized by this Member with my Senior Citizen of the Year Award.

WSCC Man of the Year Ronald Henrickson of LaGrange is another individual who can't say no when it comes to giving of his time and

talents. He is a member of LaGrange's Economic Development/Redevelopment Commission, sits of the board of directors of the Richport YMCA, and volunteers with Mainstreet LaGrange, a redevelopment group in the community.

Ms. Linda Johnson of Western Springs, IL, the Chamber's Woman of the Year, is a successful small-business owner who also finds time for her community. She has been especially active in expanding opportunities for girls and young women, serving as board member of the Whispering Oaks Girl Scout Council and is a past president of the LaGrange Business and Professional Women's Organization. Ms. Johnson also sits on the Western Springs Economic Development Commission and the WSCC Board of Directors, and is the immediate past president of the Western Springs Business Association.

Mayor Carl LeGant of Countryside, IL, the WSCC's Public Servant of the Year, represents all that is good about government service. Mayor LeGant is a true pioneer in his community. He was active in Countryside's incorporation in 1959 and has served in city government since 1963. His honesty and devotion to his community are unquestioned, and after scandal rocked Countryside's government nearly 20 years ago, Carl LeGant was elected Mayor and helped restore the people's faith in their municipal leaders.

Mr. James Durkan of Indian Head Park, IL, was recognized with the Outstanding Community Service by an Individual Award. Mr. Durkan serves as president of the Community Memorial Fund, which distributes funds for health and wellness projects throughout the community. He is also active in the LaGrange Kiwanis Club and received the LaGrange Community Nurse Service Association's Outstanding Service Award in 1993 and currently serves on the Chamber's board of directors.

Other WSCC award winners include the Rich Port YMCA as the Outstanding Community Service Organization. The Y, a true landmark in LaGrange, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of serving 15 area communities. More than 200,000 people utilize the Rich Port YMCA each year.

Winners of the Chamber's Beautification Award include Burcor Properties of LaGrange and Courtright's Restaurant of Willow Springs, IL. Burcor and its owner, Jerry Burjan, a former WSCC Man of the Year, have done much to improve downtown LaGrange, including renovating a number of commercial buildings. William and Rebecca Courtright, owners of Courtright's, painstakingly preserved the surrounding natural beauty of a sweeping, wooded hill when they constructed their restaurant in Willow Springs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honorees on their contributions to the community and wish them and the WSCC much success in the future.

AGRICULTURE REGULATORY
RELIEF AND TRADE ACT

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing what some have called Farm Bill

II. More accurately we are calling it the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act of 1996. This is a small step toward providing American farmers with the regulatory relief that will enable them to compete in a very competitive global environment.

Many of my colleagues have seen the Agriculture Policy Ledger. The Agriculture Committee has told farmers that there will be less money in the future but in return we have also promised less Government involvement in their lives. The Contract With America contained many of those promises. The Clean Water Act adopted by this House and awaiting action in the Senate would go a long way in addressing a wetlands regulatory nightmare.

I am firmly committed that we should consider many of the policy issues impacting farmers in a calm and careful manner. This bill will lay the cornerstone for the Agriculture Committee's effort to provide some regulatory relief to producers in the agricultural policy area. This bill reflects our commitment to a two-track approach. The first track, the Agricultural Market Transition Act, contains the major spending items in the agriculture budget. The second track, the one that we are embarking on today, deals with many of the policy issues under the House Agriculture Committee's jurisdiction.

I firmly believe rolling all of the budget and policy issues into one huge farm bill is a mistake. The Senate chose to pursue this approach and in that process ended up spending at least \$800 million above the December CBO baseline. In fact, when you compare the Agriculture Market Transition Act to the Senate bill, we save over \$5.4 billion more than they do.

REGULATORY RELIEF AND REAUTHORIZING THE CRP

The conservation title of the Agriculture Regulatory Relief and Trade Act fulfills a promise we made to our producers during the 1994 elections and the budget debate—in return for reduced Government support, we reduce the Government's involvement in their lives. The 1985 farm bill established a partnership between the Federal Government and the farmers. That agreement in essence said we will provide income support payments in return for compliance with government regulations.

However, since that time we have reduced payments by nearly two-thirds. At the same time Government regulations have increased exponentially. This is the first step towards stopping increased Government regulation on producers and making the regulations that remain meet the common sense tests that all regulations should have to meet—technical and economic feasibility and a focus on results, not on process.

The bill that I am introducing today with my subcommittee chairmen meets these tests. It protects the environment and allows producers to use their own innovation to meet environmental goals instead of forcing them to use the innovations of Government bureaucrats. This legislation will also halt several instances of regulatory overkill that have plagued producers since these laws were passed. This legislation goes a long way toward ending this overkill and putting producers back in charge of their land.

Specifically, this legislation will expedite procedures that producers must go through when requesting variances from conservation compliance due to circumstances beyond their control. Conservation systems and plans are